

Rowe Board of Selectmen Meeting
May 17, 2019
10:00 A.M.
Rowe Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

Board of Selectmen: Chair Jennifer Morse, Vice-Chair Dennis May
Absent: Selectman Chuck Sokol
Administrative Assistant: Paul McLatchy III
Other Attendees: Colleen Avallone, Susan Williams
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Morse at 9:57 A.M., a quorum of the board present.

Goal Post Interviews: At the annual town meeting on Monday, the voters approved two articles relating to the Goal Post. The first authorized the transfer of the operations of the newsletter from the Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen, and the second authorized \$12,000 in funding. The Planning Board will oversee the June and July issues, and the Selectmen will take over July 1st, with the first issue under their oversight being the August 2019 issue. The Board invited two candidates to be interviewed for the position of Goal Post Editor:

Sue Williams: Ms. Williams is a long-time Rowe resident. She is interested in adding better quality pictures that print more clearly, as well as ones that are more relevant to the article and/or appropriate for the time of year (i.e. not putting winter pictures in spring & fall). She feels that the format of the newsletter would be up to the Selectmen, but is willing to work with whatever they want.

Chair Morse explained that she would like to see more town department news. A number of departments have stopped sending news to the Goal Post due to concerns about editing. Ms. Williams responded that she had no desire to edit any articles other than for spelling or grammar.

Ms. Williams feels that the demographics in town have changed a lot over the years, and there isn't quite the sense of community that there once was. She hopes that perhaps the Goal Post might be able to change some of that. Perhaps there might be a way to have a "new to Rowe" section for newcomers. She presented a few mock-up pages, which the members said were very nicely done.

Both Selectmen agreed that they'd like to see more of the process completed in-house. Currently the issues are printed in-house, but then taken to a mailing company in Greenfield who then assembles and mails them out at a bulk rate. Chair Morse would like to see the town support its local post office more.

Vice-Chair May wants to see the new editor take a bit more initiative to seek out information. He pointed out that there wasn't anything in this month's issue about the elections tomorrow.

Ms. Williams was thanked for interviewing, and left at 10:23.

Colleen Avallone: Colleen is a relative newcomer to Rowe, only having moved here two years ago from New York. She currently works from home for a financial software company as a communications manager, which involves the creation and distribution of a digital newsletter every week.

Chair Morse explained the hope that the process would begin being done more in-house than it is currently being done, and Vice-Chair May wanted to see a more proactive editor who will seek out information and submissions.

Ms. Avallone is aware of some of the problems that the Goal Post has been experiencing, and wants to see the Goal Post become more useful to the townspeople. She seems very interested in the capabilities of publishing the document digitally. She is quite computer savvy and flexible with which program(s) might be the most appropriate for publishing the Goal Post.

Chair Morse explained the budget, and the projected amount of work and time were also discussed. Vice-Chair May said that the Board is looking for someone who is capable of acting independently, with the Board needing to spend very little time managing the Goal Post.

Ms. Avallone hopes that she might be able to bring a lot of historical pieces into the publication by taking snippets of old Goal Posts, Historical Society Bulletins, etc. and re-publishing them. Vice-Chair May also wanted to make sure she was willing to possibly try and seek out information that might be boring, but useful.

Ms. Avallone was thanked for interviewing, and left at 10:53.

Decision: Both members agreed that the two interviewed candidates were great, and would both be a good fit. However, Vice-Chair May pointed out the experience Ms. Williams had with similar projects, as well as her connection to the town. Chair Morse agreed, noting that the transition would be easier given her history with the community. A motion was made by Chair Morse and seconded by Vice-Chair May to offer the position to Sue Williams. The vote was 2-0-0 in favor.

Mr. McLatchy used the phone in his office to contact Ms. Williams, who happily accepted the position. He will send a letter to Ms. Avallone thanking her, and encouraging her to keep an eye out for other opportunities with the town. He will also email Doug Wilson, who applied for the position but was not chosen for an interview.

New England Infrastructure: Chair Morse signed the bid award to New England Infrastructure, Inc. for their bid for work on the bridge over Shippee Brook on Zoar Road. Mr. McLatchy will send it to both Gill Engineering and NEI.

Reimbursement: Vice-Chair May reported that the Social Security reimbursement was still being worked on, but close to being done.

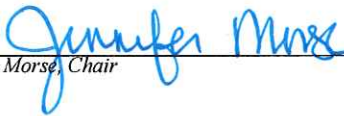
Election: Chair Morse informed Vice-Chair May that there had been a citizen questioning the eligibility of a declared write-in candidate at tomorrow's election. A concern was raised about whether a candidate had to live in town for six months before being elected. At her request, Mr. McLatchy contacted the Elections Division at the Secretary of State's office to confirm that the candidate was eligible. The state has no minimum qualifications for local office other than being a resident and registered voter.

Next Meeting: The Board will meet after the election on Monday, May 20th. This will be Vice-Chair May's final meeting. He was thanked for his service.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The vote was 2-0-0 in favor, and the meeting was closed at 11:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 6-12-2019



Jennifer Morse, Chair

Dennis May, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Goal Post Survey Responses (Charts & Comments)
2. New England Infrastructure Bid Award